

an image file that has been recorded on the second loadable and removable recording medium are duplicates;

an image-file recording controller, which is responsive to a determination by said file-name duplication discrimination unit that the file names are duplicates, for changing the file name of the image file that has been read out of the first loadable and removable recording medium and recording this read image file on the second loadable and removable recording medium in such a manner that file names of image files that have been recorded on the second loadable and removable recording medium will not be duplicated; and

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a grouping unit for grouping image files, which have been recorded on the second loadable and removable recording medium by said image-file recording control unit, according to the types of images represented by the image files.

2. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said grouping unit causes a file name corresponding to each group to be recorded on the second loadable and removable recording medium.

3. (Amended) An image file apparatus comprising:

an image file readout unit for reading out an image file that has been recorded on a first loadable and removable recording medium;

a recording controller for recording the image file, which has been read out by said image file readout unit, on a second loadable and removable recording medium; and

an output unit for outputting an image file being recorded on the second loadable and removable recording medium by said recording controller.

4. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said output unit is a display device for displaying an image represented by an image file that has been recorded on the second loadable and removable recording medium.

5. (Amended) An image file method in an image file apparatus for reading out an image file that has been recorded on a first loadable and removable recording medium and recording this image file on a second loadable and removable recording medium, comprising the steps of:

reading out an image file that has been recorded on the first loadable and removable recording medium;

determining whether a file name of the image file that has been read out of the first loadable and removable recording medium and a file name of an image file that has been recorded on the second loadable and removable recording medium are duplicates;

in response to a determination that the file names are duplicates, changing the file name of the image file that has been read out of the first loadable and removable recording medium and recording this read image file on the second loadable and removable recording medium in such a manner that file names of image files that have been recorded on the second loadable and removable recording medium will not be duplicated; and

grouping image files, which have been recorded on the second loadable and removable recording medium by the image-file recording control unit, according to the types of images represented by the image files.

6. (Amended) An image file method comprising the steps of:

reading out an image file that has been recorded on a first loadable and removable recording medium;

recording the read image file on a second loadable and removable recording medium; and

outputting an image file being recorded on the second loadable and removable recording medium.

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